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REGION IX

California
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

R9-3-DW

U.S. FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION. Region IX, San Francisco, Calif.

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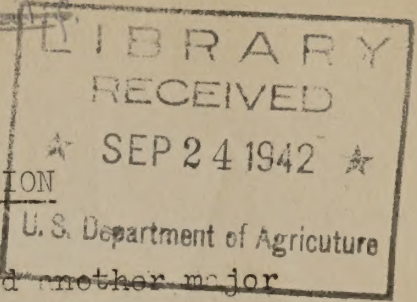
Division of Information

F22

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Reserve

San Francisco, California



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FARM SECURITY KEEPS EVACUATED FARMS IN PRODUCTION

The Farm Security Administration has shouldered another major

major defense assignment in supervising the transfer to new operators of more than 6000 farms operated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans living in the West Coast military zones. An earlier defense assignment given FSA was construction of temporary housing for defense workers.

The farm people affected by Army evacuation orders include about half the 93,000 persons of Japanese descent on the West Coast. These farmers produce about 35 per cent of the fruit and vegetable harvest of California, which produces from a third to two-thirds of the nation's supply of most vegetables. Approximately 200,000 acres and a land investment of \$70,000,000 are involved, in addition to millions of dollars worth of growing crops.

To see that this land was fairly disposed of and to keep it in production, Farm Security on March 17, under orders of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, placed special FSA field agents in the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration "service centers" throughout the Pacific Coast. Information about the farms and their availability to other farmers was disseminated widely. The field agents brought Japanese and prospective operators of their land together, helped see that reasonable arrangements were made, and later were empowered to act as temporary custodians of the property, operating it until fair arrangements could be made for disposal. The agents examined the qualifications of farmers who wished to acquire Japanese farming operations, assisted them to plan future production and to get credit, and made special loans when necessary.

More than 3000 farms totaling 100,000 acres of land have been thus transferred to new operators since March 17. Farm Security agents have made nearly \$1,000,000 in special loans to these operators.

April 17, 1942

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